

ARTICLES

TO BE INQVIRED

of by the CHURCH-VVARDENS and
Questmen of every Parish in
the Lord Primates Visitation
Metropolitically.




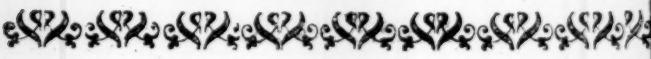
DUBLIN,

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Majestic. 1640.



The forme of the Oath to be taken by the Churchwardens and Questmen in every Parish immediately before their presentments.

 **Y**U, and euery of you shall sweare, that you shall due inquiry and true presentment make according to the Articles giben you in charge, of all such crimes, faults, and defaults, as haue bin committed in your Parish: And of all such persons, as are or haue been vehemently suspected, or defamed to haue committed any such crimes, faults, or defaults. You shall neither present any for hatred, malice, or any other sinister respect, nor spare any for feare, fauour, or reward, but discharge your Consciences, as men fearing God, for the reformation of sinne and wickednesse, and the advancement of godlinesse and Vertue. So helpe you God.



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I.

Concerning Religion and Church-governement.

Nprimis. Doe you know any that doe refuse to receive oꝝ
approve the Articles of Religion agræd upon in the
Convocation holden at London, Anno Domini 1562.
and recived here in the Convocation begun at Dublin,
Anno Domini 1634? oꝝ have you heard of any, who have traduced oꝝ
run against the same?

Also doe you know oꝝ have you heard of any person within your
parish, that doth acknowledge any manner of obedience oꝝ subiecti-
on to be due to any sovrain power in causes Ecclesiasticall? oꝝ that
either by word oꝝ wꝛiting hath maintained, that the Kings power
within this Realme of Ireland and all other his dominions and
counties is not the highest power under God, to whom all men by
his Lawes owe all loyaltie and obedience; and to no other power
pretentate upon earth?

Are there in your Parish any, who have traduced oꝝ spoken
against the prescript forme of Divine Service contained in the Book
of Common-Prayer? oꝝ against the forme of consecrating and oꝝ
against our Bishops and other Ministers? oꝝ have maintained that
the Churches established under this government be not true Churches,
oꝝ doe refuse to ioyne with them in Christian profession?

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4. Is the Lords-day, and other Holy-dayes appointed by the orders of this Church duly kept and obserued? And are any other Holy-dayes obserued, beside those which are appointed by the Booke of Common-Prayer?

II.

Concerning Parish Churches and Chappels.

5. Is your Parish Church or Chappell kept in due reparation, the windowes well glazed, and the floores kept plaine and even, and is your Church-yard well and sufficiently fenced, and maintained with wals, rayles or pales, as hath beene heretofore accustomed?

6. Have you in your said Church or Chappell a fit Seate for the Minister to reade Divine Service in, a decent Pulpit with a comely Pulpit-Cloth and Cushion, a front-stone with a cover, a faire Communion Table with a decent Carpet and a faire Linen-cloth to the covering of the same, a Silver Cup with a cover, and a Stewp or Flagon of Pewter (if not of purer mettall) for the celebration of the holy Communion?

7. Have you in your Church or Chappell two Bookes of Common-prayer (one for the Minister, and another for the Clerke) a Bible of the last Translation, the Booke of Canons agreed upon in the Convocation begun at Dublin Anno 1634. and a Table of the degrees of Marriage prohibited by the Lawes of God?

8. Have you a sure Coffer, with three locks and Keyes (whereof one remaineth with the Minister, the other two with the Churchwardens) and a Parchment-booke therein to be kept for the registering of every Chriftening, Wedding and Buriall within your Parish? And doth the Minister every Sabbath-day, in the presence of the Churchwardens recozd in the said Booke the names and surnames of all persons chriftened in the said Parish (together with the names and surnames of their Parents) and also the names and surnames of all persons married or buried the weeke before; for

ther with the day and yeere of every such Marriage, Christning,
and Buriall?

9. Have you a strong Chest, with a hole in the upper part thereof
(having thre Keyes, to be kept as aforesaid) fastned in the most
convenient place, that the Parishioners may put therein their
Almes for their poore neighbours?

10. Doe you know of any that hath shed blood, or stricken, or quar-
relled with any person in your Church or Church-yard?

11. Are all monuments of idolatry and superstition abolished in
your Church or Church-yard? Hath there been any prophane usage
kept therein; either playes, feasts, banquets, Church-Alles, dym-
mings, exposing any wares to sale, temporall Courts or Lects, Lay-
juries, Hustlers, Commissions (other than for causes Ecclesiasticall
call) playing at Ball, or any other unseemly actions or misbehavio?

III.

Concerning Ministers.

12. Is the Benefice within your Parish a Parsonage, Vicarage,
or Prebend? who is the Incumbent there? What tythes, Glebe-
lands, or other rights or possessions are thereunto belonging? You
are to bring a true note, or Terrier of the same into the Bishops Re-
gistry, there to be safely preserved?

13. Doth your Person or Vicar keepe his Parsonse-houise, with all
the buildings thereunto belonging in due reparation? Doth he re-
side, and keepe hospitality therein? If not, where doth he reside?
and how, and by whom is the charge supplied?

14. Doth your Person, Vicar or Curate duely every Sunday,
and Holy-day, and other times appointed doe his duty, in reading
assidually Divine Service, and (as occasion requireth) administering
the Sacraments; according to the forme prescribed in the Booke of
Common-Prayer?

15. Doth

15. Doth your Minister begin and end Divine Service at due and convenient houres: and doth he examine and instruct the youth of the Parish every Sunday in the Catechisme set forth in the Booke of Common Prayer, for halfe an houre before Evening Prayer?

16. Doth he, for the fuller information of the people in the booke of Christian Religion, divide the heads thereof into so many parts as there are Sundayes in the yeere? and in the handling and explaining thereof doth he use such moderation, that he doth not runne into curious questions and unnecessary controversies, but shortly declare and confirme the doctrine proposed, and make application thereof to the behowe of the hearers?

17. How many Benefices or Ecclesiasticall promotions hath your Person or Vicar; and how farre distant are they the one from the other? What Chappels hath he to his Cures belonging? by what names are they called? and how and by whom are they served?

18. Doth your Minister preach every Sunday in that Church where he is resident? and if not; doe you know that he hath any just impediment for the same?

19. Doth your Minister teach any vaine opinions, Heresies, or Popish errors, disagreeing from the Articles of Religion generally received in the Churches of England and Ireland? And doe you know, or have you heard any Preacher in the Pulpit particularly impugn or confute any doctrine delivered by any other Preacher in the same Church, or in any other neare adjoining; or otherwise make any publike opposition unto him? And have you acquainted the Bishop of the Diocese therewith?

20. Doth your Minister, or Proprietary (if the Benefice be impropriate) allow a competent maintenance to the Curate, who suplieth that charge? and what doth he allow him? Is the Curate licensed by the Bishop? And how many Churches or Chappels doth he serve in one day; and how farre distant are they one from the other?

21. Hath

21. Hath your Minister denyed or neglected to visit the sicke, or to Christen or bury any, when he hath been lawfully and conveniently required thereunto?

22. Hath he married any in any other place, save in the face of the Church, and at any other time, then betwixt the houres of eight and twelue in the forenoone?

23. Doth your Minister give warning publikely in the Church at Morning Prayer the Sunday before the Communion is to be administered; to the end the Communicants may the better prepare themselves thereunto: or hath he admitted any knowne impenitent notorious offenders to the participation of the same? And doth he celebrate the holy Communion so often, that every Parishioner may receive thrice in the yeare at the least?

24. Hath he admitted any to be married, or to be Godfather or Godmother at the Baptisme of any Child, or to receive the holy Communion; before they can say the Articles of the Belæfe, the Lords Prayer, and the Ten commandments in such a Language as they understand?

25. Doth your Minister conferre with Recusants within his Parish, to seeke to recall them from their ignorance and errors? Is he of a good and sober conversation? Or otherwise doth he give himselfe to any base or servile labour, to playing at Dice, Cards or Tables, or any other game unbecoming his function? Is he a common resozter to Tavernes or Alehouses, a great drinker, a Simoniackall person, a knowne Usurer, a quarrellous or contentious person, or otherwise defamed? Doth he also goe gravely and decently in his apparell; according as the Canons doe prescribe?

IIII.

Concerning Cathedrall Churches, Deanes & Prebendaries.

26. Whether the Cathedrall Church be in good repaire? what tithes or rents doe belong unto it? who is the yearely receiver thereof; and how is the same bestowed?

27. Doth your Deane reside in the Cathedrall Church fourescore and ten dayes at the least in every yeare? Hath he any house, or ground to build an house upon, belonging to his Church? and doth he keep good hospitality, during the time of his residence?

28. Doe your Deane and Prebendaries preach in their owne persons (or by their substitutes, when they are lawfully absent: as often as by the ordinance and custome of their Church they are required: and in those other places and Churches also, whence they or the Cathedrall to which they belong doe receive any yearly rents or profits?

29. Do the Prebendaries, after the dates of their residing in the Cathedrall (appointed by their locall statutes or customes) presently repaire to their Benefices: there to discharge their duties, according to the Law in that case provided?

V.

Concerning the Parishioners.

30. Are there any in your Parish, who are suspected to be of no Religion, mere Atheists, not adhering to any Church? or any that doe wilfully maintaine and defend any heresie, errour or opinion contrary to the Word of God? and have any gone about to seduce others from the truth of Religion taught & professed in our Church?

31. Are there in your Parish any, who seeme to professe the Faith and Religion of our Church, and formerly did frequent the Church and heare Divine service according to the Book of common prayer, that doe now refuse or neglect diligently to frequent their Parish Church, and there reverently and devoutly to attend Gods Service, and receive the holy Communion thrice in the yeare at the least, as it is required? Especially, you are to present the names of those, who have not communicated at Easter last?

32. Are there in your Parish any, that (in contempt of their owne Parish church) doe resort any other Church or Chappell?

33. Are

33. Are there in your Parish any, who upon the Sunday, or other allowed holy dayes, doe use their manuell labour? or any that Buy or Sell, or frequent Tavernes and Ale-houses in time of Divine service and preaching upon those dayes, and at those times?

34. Is there in your Parish any, that hath disturbed or hindered the Minister in the time of Divine Service or Sermon, or otherwise offended the people by walking, talking, laughing, or any other noyse or clamour? Or that bring to the Church with them Hawkes with bells, or ill nurtured children which cannot be kept quiet in their seats without running up and downe?

35. Have there any Bastards or base begotten children bene boyne, or are nursed within your Parish since the last Visitation? Present the names of the reputed Parents?

36. Are there any in your Parish that live together as Man and Wife, and yet are vehemently suspected not to be married, or to have another Husband or Wife?

37. Are there any in your Parish, who being under the government of their Parents or others, have made private Contracts of Matrimony; not calling thereunto two or more witnesses, nor having the consent of their Parents, or such others under whose government they are?

38. Are there any in your Parish married within the degrees prohibited? or without their Bannes thrice solemnly published in their Parish Church, upon three severall Sundayes or Holy dayes; or a licence first had from the Ordinary? or at any other time, then betwene the houres of eight and twelve in the forenoone?

39. What married persons in your Parish have been divorced, and since married with others, for these three yeeres last past? By whose sentence were they divorced; and by whose licence, and by whom were they so married? Declare your knowledge in the premises, and what you have credibly heard?

40. Are there any in your Parish which are excommunicated and how long have they stood so? Are there any who are reputed, or knowne to be common Drunkards, Swearers, Blasphemers, Intemperate persons, Adulterers, Fornicators, Bawdes, Perjured persons, Extortioners, Oppressors, Common scolds, Brawlers, Slanders, Rake-bates, Sowers of discord betwene party and partie, especially betwene Man and Wife? Or that have used Charmes, Spels, Sozcery or Witchcraft, or are guilty of any other notorious offence belonging to Ecclesiasticall cognisance, or are suspected or defamed to be guilty of the same?

41. Hath any person within your Parish contemned, or abused by word or deed, any Minister of the Church?

42. Doe any in your Parish deny or detain their payment duly rated towards the reparation and furnishing of the Church, or any other necessary pious use?

43. What persons in your Parish, having Goods or Chattels, have died since the last Visitation?

44. Have any within your Parish medled with the Goods or Chattels of parties deceased, without licence first had by letters of administration or otherwise from the Ordinary?

45. Doe you know in your Parish any Executors of the goods of persons deceased, that have detained any Dyrhane goods, or Legacies bequeathed or appointed for the repairing of Churches or Highwayes, finding of poore Schollers, marrying of poore Maydens, or such other charitable Deeds; and not employed the said Goods or Legacies according to their authority given and charge enioyned.

V.

Concerning Parish-Clearks, Church-wardens, and Schoole-masters.

46. Is your Parish-Clerke of competent age and skil for the
executing

performing of his office? Is he resident, and doth he diligently performe his duty in his owne person? Is he conformable to the Orders of the Church, and of honest life and sober conversation?

47. Were your Church-wardens and Side-men duely chosen at the time, and after the manner appointed; namely upon Monday or Tuesday in Easter weeke, by the ioynt consent of the Minister and Parishioners? or otherwise, the one by the Minister, and the other by the Parishioners? And were they sworn the next Census day after their election before the Bishop or his Chancellor? Or are there any so chosen, who have refused to undertake that Office?

48. Have the former Church-wardens, at the going forth out of their Office, given up a true account of what moneyes they have received and disbursed? Have they brought in a Register of all Christenings, Marriages and Burials, within the yeare of their office; that the same may faithfully be preserved in the Bishops Registry?

49. Doe the Church-wardens, with the advice and direction of the Minister, provide against every Communion a sufficient quantitie of fine white Bread, and of good and wholesome Wine, for the number of the Communicants that shall from time to time receive? And doe they performe all other duties aswell in the Church as without, required of them by the Canons and Constitutions of this Church?

50. What Schoole-masters or Teachers have you in your Parish, who teach Schoole either publikely or privately without Licence; and by whom are they harboured?

VII.

Concerning Ecclesiasticall Courts and their Officers.

51. Is your Chancellour, Commissary, Officiall, or Surrogate reasonably well practised in the course of the Ecclesiasticall and Civil Lawes; and such an one as is twenty six yeares old at least, and teaching whose life and conversation no evil report hath gone? And

doth he gibe any yearely Kent, summe oꝝ summes of money, oꝝ other consideration foꝝ his exercising of the Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction to any person oꝝ persons whattsoever ?

52. Do such as exercise Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction deliver to the Churchwardens of every Parish such Bookes of Articles as any of them shall require foꝝ the yeate following; to ground their presentments upon, at such times as they are to exhibite them ?

53. Doth any Ecclesiasticall Judge suffer any generall Proces of Quorum nomina to be sent out of his Court; wherein the names of all such as are thereby to be cited are not first entred by the hand of the Register oꝝ his deputy ? and are such Processe and names first subscribed by the Judge oꝝ his deputy, & his Seale affixed thereunto

54. Do you know any person appearing upon a citation, that had not bene dismissed with his costs; if the next Court day after they have not bene Articles oꝝ a Libell put in against him ? And doe you know of any, that hath bene excommunicated upon the first citation

55. Hath any person executing Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction executed any iudiciall Act, without the Register of the Court oꝝ his lawful deputy, oꝝ (in their absence) in the presence of such persons as by Law are thereunto allowed ?

56. Do you know oꝝ have heard of any exercising Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction, that useth moze then one Seale, foꝝ the sealing of all matters incident to his Office ?

57. Do those that exercise Ecclesiasticall Jurisdiction appoint such meete places foꝝ the keeping of their Courts (by the assignement & approbation of the Bishop of the Diocese) as shall be convenient foꝝ the entertainment of those who are to make their appearance there, and most indifferent foꝝ their travell ? And doe they keepe and end their Courts in such convenient time, as every man may returne home wards, in as due season as may be ? -

58. Hath any Judge Ecclesiasticall, oꝝ his Surrogate yielded to

the probatō of any Testament, or to the granting of an Administration of the goods of any person dying intestate; before the Execution of such Administration hath first in his owne person (and not by Proctor) taken the Oath accustomed in these cases?

59. Do you know or have you heard, that any Register or his Deputy hath received any certificate without the consent of the Judge of the Court? or willingly omitted to cause any persons (cited to appear upon any Court day) to be called? or unduely deferred the examination of witnesses to bee examined by a day assigned by the Judge? or hath falsified any acts or records; or hath done any other thing whereby the Judge of the Court or his proceeding may be delayed?

60. Do you know or have you heard, that any Proctor doth retaine causes without lawfull assignement of the parties? or doth refuse to take the Oath De Calumniā, wheresoever in the suit the same shall be required before sentence?

61. Hath any Apparitor cited any within your Parish to appear in any Ecclesiasticall Court without lawfull processe? or hath molested any without iust cause and ground; upon bare suspicion, without consentment made or publique fame preceding? Hath he exacted more fees then his due? or hath he taken Bribes to defeat the Court, and to release any delinquents?

62. Hath any Officer or Substitute in any Ecclesiasticall Court wilfully delayed or betrayed any cause brought before them? or exacted more fees then were due? or have taken any Bribes or done any under-hand, to winke at, and to suffer offences to escape unpunished?

63. Is there in your Parish any other matter or cause of the Cognizance of the Church, above not expressed, worthy presentment in your iudgement? If any such matter or cause there be; you are charged likewise to present the same, as you are the rest, by vertue of your Oath?

FINIS.